

REMARKS

The Examiner's final Office Action of May 19, 2003 has been received and its contents reviewed. Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the consideration given to the above-identified application, and for conducting a personal interview and a follow-up telephone interview with Applicants' representative on July 25, 2003.

Claims 1-10 were pending prior to this amendment. By this Amendment claims 1 and 9 have been amended, and claim 3 has been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-2, and 4-10 are pending for consideration in the present application, of which claims 1, 6, and 9 are independent. In view of the actions above and the remarks below, reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Referring now to the detailed Office Action, claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 9, and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Fujita et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,485,039 – hereafter Fujita). Further, claims 2, 5, and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Fujita.

With respect to independent claims 1 and 9, as a result of the personal interview and the follow-up telephone interview conducted with the Examiner on July 25, 2003, and in the interest of expediting the allowance of this application, Applicants have as amended claims 1 and 9, as shown above.

Specifically, claim 1 has been amended further recites multiple through holes, which pass from the principal surface through the backside of the substrate and are provided in a region of the substrate between the two adjacent components so as to substantially eliminate the electrical interference between the two semiconductor components, and a conductor film formed directly on the side faces of the through holes.

Similarly to claim 1, claim 9 has been amended to further recite a conductor film formed directly on the side faces of the through holes.

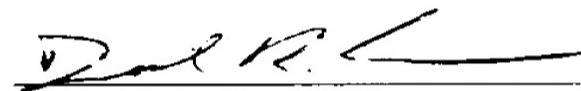
As claims 1 and 9 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner to differentiate the claimed invention over that of Fujita, which does not disclose a conductor film formed directly on the side faces of the through holes, the §102(b) is respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

In spite of the amendment to claims 1 and 9 above, Applicants are not acquiescing to the §102(b) rejection nor agreeing with the Examiner assertion that conductive pin 6 of Fujita can be interpreted as a conductor film formed on the side faces of the through holes.

With respect to the §103(a) rejection of independent claim 6, the Examiner is has acknowledged during the personal interview that Fujita does not disclose, teach, or suggest a second group of through holes. Accordingly, the §103(a) is requested to be withdrawn.

Having responded to all rejections and objection set forth in the outstanding Final Office Action, it is submitted that claims 1-2, and 4-10 are now in condition for allowance. An early and favorable Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited. In the event that the Examiner is of the opinion that a brief telephone or personal interview will facilitate allowance of one or more of the above claims, the Examiner is courteously requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,


Donald R. Studebaker
Registration No. 32,815

NIXON PEABODY LLP
8180 Greensboro Drive, Suite 800
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 770-9300